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June 4, 1999

Food and Drug Administration
2121 South Clark Place
Washington, DC 20460

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Dear Chairperson,

I wish to express my deep concern regarding the genetic engineering technology of seed developed by corporations such as Monsanto, Novartis and Pioneer Hi-Bred and sanctioned by USDA and FDA. The process itself threatens to introduce new toxins and allergens into the food system and to increase antibiotic resistance in humans and animals.

A second and even more serious concern is the presence of seed and food products on the market unlabeled as genetically engineered. There has never been any long-term or adequate short-term testing for the safety of these foods to humans and the rest of the eco-system. The only testing that has been done was conducted by the corporations which have created the technology.

I am also disturbed that the present US administration is pushing hard for acceptance of biotechnology both here and abroad without proper public discussion of the implications for the planet's food supply. Currently 1.4 billion people rely on farm-saved seed for their survival. With the introduction of Monsanto's "Terminator Gene" farmers will be forced to purchase seed each year, resulting in the destruction of small farms all over the world.

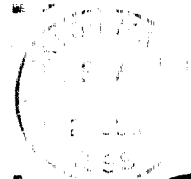
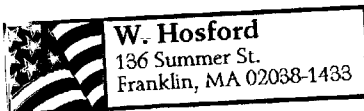
As a member of the community which values safe food as the key to the viability of the planet, I pledge to boycott the above named companies and to consistently confront the USDA, FDA and EPA to take action in this important matter. I will also make every effort to encourage others to do the same.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Hoagland

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HR 87

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